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Letter dated 8 May 2018 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, I have the honour to refer to the joint report of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate prepared pursuant to paragraph 18 of Security Council resolution 2395 (2017).

Following consideration of the report at the Committee's 330th meeting, held on 19 April 2018, the Committee agreed to recommend that the document be issued as a Security Council document and that the President of the Security Council address a letter to the President of the General Assembly annexing the document, to be brought to the attention of the Assembly in the context of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy review.

Please find herewith the above-mentioned report (see annex), which I send to you for further action, in my capacity as the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism.

(*Signed*) Gustavo **Meza-Cuadra**
Chair
Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

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Annex

Joint report of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism pursuant to paragraph 18 of Security Council resolution 2395 (2017)

I. Introduction

A. Requirement for a joint report of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism pursuant to Security Council resolution 2395 (2017)

1. In its resolution 2395 (2017), the Security Council reaffirmed that terrorism in all forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and underlined the need to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, as set forth in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (General Assembly resolution 60/288). The Council also underscored the central role of the United Nations in efforts to counter terrorism and the importance of strong cooperation between the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism. In paragraph 18 of the resolution, the Council directed the two bodies to draft a joint report by 30 March 2018, setting out practical steps to be taken to ensure the incorporation of the Directorate's recommendations and analysis into the work of the Office, to be considered by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, as well as the General Assembly in the context of the Global Strategy review.

B. Need for strengthened collaboration and cooperation

2. The Security Council, in its resolution 2395 (2017), highlighted ways of and areas for cooperation between the Executive Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism, reflecting the complementarity of the mandates of the two entities. The use of the Directorate's neutral and expert assessments of the implementation of the relevant Council resolutions by Member States and its analytical work on emerging issues, trends and developments in the design of technical assistance and capacity-building efforts by the Office and other United Nations entities will not only further the balanced implementation of the Global Strategy across all four of its pillars, but also strengthen coherence across the United Nations system in support of Member States.

3. Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. No cause and no grievance can justify any act of terrorism. The Secretary-General's first reform initiative was to create the Office of Counter-Terrorism to provide strategic leadership for United Nations counter-terrorism efforts and ensure that countering terrorism is given due priority in the work of the Organization and that the important work on preventing violent extremism is firmly rooted in the Global Strategy. On 28 and 29 June 2018, the Secretary-General will convene the High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, which will be aimed at enhancing international counter-terrorism cooperation by facilitating operational and practical exchanges and consensus-building on key terrorism issues affecting Member States.

4. The Secretary-General has stressed the importance of enhancing coordination and coherence across the 38 Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force/United

Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities[1] participating in the 12 working groups,[2] in order to ensure an "All-of-United Nations" approach to implementing all four pillars of the Global Strategy. He has signed the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, which will strengthen system-wide cooperation on counter-terrorism issues throughout the United Nations. Effective cooperation between the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Executive Directorate is crucial to the coordination and coherence of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts. It also maximizes the comparative advantages of each entity and the complementarity of expertise, bringing added value through the sharing of information and ensuring a common foundation for United Nations support.

II. Overview of the mandates and cooperation of the Executive Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism

A. Mandates of the Executive Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism

5. The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate was established by Security Council resolution 1535 (2004) as a special political mission, responsible for assisting the Counter-Terrorism Committee in monitoring, facilitating and promoting the implementation by Member States of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and subsequent resolutions, decisions and presidential statements of the Council on counter-terrorism.[3] In its resolution 2395 (2017), the Council underscored that neutral and expert assessment of the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005), 2178 (2014) and other relevant resolutions is the core function of the Executive Directorate, and that the analysis and recommendations from these assessments are an invaluable aid to Member States in identifying and addressing gaps in implementation and capacity. The resolution also describes the scope of the Directorate's mandate, which encompasses country visits; assessments; analysis of emerging issues, trends and developments; and facilitation of technical assistance, and requests the Directorate to integrate gender as a cross-cutting issue throughout its activities and to integrate the impact of terrorism on children.

6. On 15 June 2017, the General Assembly adopted its resolution 71/291, on strengthening the capability of the United Nations system to assist Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and also established the Office of Counter-Terrorism, in accordance with the report of the Secretary-General on the capability of the United Nations system to assist Member

[1] The full list of entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force may be consulted at www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/structure.

[2] The 12 Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force working groups are: 1. Border Management and Law Enforcement Relating to Counter-Terrorism; 2. Countering the Financing of Terrorism; 3. Foreign Terrorist Fighters; 4. National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies; 5. Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction Attacks; 6. Preventing Violent Extremism and Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism; 7. Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism; 8. Protection of Critical Infrastructure, including Internet, Vulnerable Targets and Tourism Security; 9. Supporting and Highlighting Victims of Terrorism; 10. Legal and Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism; 11. Gender-Sensitive Approach to Preventing and Countering Terrorism; and 12. Working Group on Communications.

[3] Security Council resolutions 1535 (2004), 1624 (2005),1787 (2007), 1805 (2008), 1963 (2010), 2129 (2013), 2133 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2185 (2014), 2195 (2014), 2220 (2015), 2242 (2015), 2253 (2015), 2309 (2016), 2322 (2016), 2331 (2016), 2341 (2017), 2354 (2017), 2368 (2017), 2370 (2017), 2388 (2017), 2395 (2017) and 2396 (2017).

States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/71/858), which defines the following five main functions for the Office:

(a) Provide leadership on the General Assembly counter-terrorism mandates entrusted to the Secretary-General from across the United Nations system;

(b) Enhance coordination and coherence across the 38 entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to ensure balanced implementation of the four pillars of the Global Strategy;

(c) Strengthen the delivery of United Nations counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance to Member States;

(d) Improve visibility, advocacy and resource mobilization for United Nations counter-terrorism efforts;

(e) Ensure that due priority is given to counter-terrorism across the United Nations system and that the important work on preventing violent extremism is firmly rooted in the Global Strategy.

7. During the general debate of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, many Member States welcomed the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and called for increased international cooperation and the strengthening of United Nations coordination and coherence to effectively counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism. The Global Strategy and the General Assembly resolution on its fifth biennial review (resolution 70/291) also underscored the importance of strengthened coordination and coherence of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts. The Security Council, in its resolutions 2341 (2017), 2354 (2017), 2368 (2017), 2370 (2017), 2395 (2017) and 2396 (2017), also emphasized and encouraged enhanced cooperation and coordination among relevant United Nations entities.

B. The use of Executive Directorate analysis in the development and implementation of United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre projects

8. One of the key functions of the Office of Counter-Terrorism is to strengthen the delivery of United Nations counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance to Member States, at their request, to support the implementation of the Global Strategy, including through the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre.

9. The Office of Counter-Terrorism is one of the main counter-terrorism capacity-building providers of the United Nations. The assessments and analysis of the Executive Directorate play an important role in the development and implementation of projects of the Office. The work of the Directorate should feed into the standard project life cycle of the Office, where appropriate, which consists of seven steps: idea, analysis, planning, financing, initiation, implementation and evaluation. The idea for an Office of Counter-Terrorism/United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre capacity-building project is always guided by the Global Strategy, requests from Member States for capacity-building assistance and the assessments and analysis of the Directorate. Currently, the Centre's five-year programme (2016–2020) sets out the thematic areas of the work of the Centre.

10. In implementing relevant projects, the Office of Counter-Terrorism may also rely on expertise of the Executive Directorate, including to brief requesting Member States on the requirements for full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

11. The projects of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre are fully funded by extrabudgetary contributions; its work is guided by relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 66/10 and 71/291, and are aimed at contributing to the implementation of the Global Strategy and strengthening the delivery of United Nations capacity-building assistance to Member States. Some of the voluntary contributions may be earmarked by donors for specific activities. The Centre also assiduously avoids duplicating the efforts of other United Nations entities.

C. Good practices and steps taken since the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism to strengthen cooperation within the United Nations system and with the Executive Directorate

12. The Security Council, in its resolution 2395 (2017), noted the crucial role of the Executive Directorate within the United Nations and its expertise in assessing counter-terrorism issues and in supporting the development and promotion of well-informed counter-terrorism responses, and urged the Office of Counter-Terrorism and all other relevant United Nations bodies to take into account the Directorate's recommendations and analysis in the implementation of their programmes and mandates. It also called upon the Office, all other relevant United Nations funds and programmes, Member States, donors and recipients to use the Directorate's expert assessments in their design of technical assistance and capacity-building efforts, including in furthering the balanced implementation of the Global Strategy across all four of its pillars.

13. In developing a methodology for strengthening cooperation, the Executive Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism are able to draw on examples in which the two bodies have worked together to develop shared products that highlight key areas in which capacity-building assistance is required. These include the capacity-building implementation plan for countering the flow of foreign terrorist fighters (which relied on the Directorate's assessment of priority States and issues); the advance passenger information system (which incorporates the Directorate's expertise, advice and inputs throughout its implementation); and the ongoing exercise related to the Joint Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia (which may prove to be a good practice). The Directorate also contributed to the design and delivery of a project of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on addressing violent extremism in prisons and will support the project throughout its life cycle. The Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Directorate have also cooperated on the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism Initiative in the Sahel region and worked closely on the development of regional counter-terrorism strategies.

14. Since the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, both bodies have made efforts to enhance their working relationship. Those efforts include: (a) weekly meetings of the Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate; (b) monthly follow-up coordination meetings of the two bodies; (c) the exchange of informational notes by the two heads of office on issues and activities of common interest; and (d) a joint visit of the two heads of office to a Member State.

15. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact should further enable coherent development and implementation of technical assistance projects aligned with the Executive Directorate's assessments and analysis. The Office of Counter-Terrorism has already provided most working groups of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force with seed money to support priority projects agreed upon by the participating entities.

III. Practical steps to be taken

16. Good progress has been made on enhancing coordination and collaboration between the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Executive Directorate since the creation of the Office in 2017. To build on and further deepen that effective cooperation, the Directorate and the Office have identified the following practical steps:

Priority regions and areas for collaboration

(a) The Executive Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism will closely consult on States, regions and related thematic areas for technical assistance and capacity-building purposes, to use the Directorate's assessments and analytical work, including on emerging issues, trends and developments and to identify needs for technical assistance and capacity-building efforts, consistent with balanced implementation of the Global Strategy. Priority areas for collaboration will include States on the annual list of visits of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, as well as States previously visited by the Committee. The two bodies will also provide each other with a list of annual activities. The Directorate and the Office will also keep each other informed of their respective follow-up activities;

(b) The Office of Counter-Terrorism will help to advocate the use of the Executive Directorate's assessments and analysis in the context of the working groups and provide advocacy and other support to working group entities for the implementation of projects that address priority technical assistance needs identified by the Directorate and endorsed by the targeted Member States;

(c) The Office of Counter-Terrorism will ensure that the Executive Directorate's assessments and expertise are fully considered in the implementation of the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism Initiative in current areas of focus (the Group of Five for the Sahel, Mali and Nigeria) and in future initiatives;

(d) The Office of Counter-Terrorism will regularly provide the Executive Directorate with an updated matrix of information on its projects in priority regions;

Country visits and follow-up

(e) The Executive Directorate will share recommendations and assessments from all country visits with the Office of Counter-Terrorism through a specially designed communication portal and other available means and procedures, except when requested by the assessed Member States to keep selected information confidential;

(f) Where possible, the Office of Counter-Terrorism will participate in Executive Directorate visits to States included in the list approved by the Counter-Terrorism Committee;

(g) The Office of Counter-Terrorism will inform the Executive Directorate, in advance, about States to be visited, particularly those that have recently been visited or are scheduled to be visited by the Directorate, to facilitate the timely exchange of information; and, where possible, the Directorate will join the Office on its visits;

(h) Following a visit, the Executive Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism will consult with a view to agreeing on areas in which the Office could provide technical assistance, capacity-building, advocacy or other support;

Joint outreach activities

(i) Where possible, the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Executive Directorate will continue to organize joint briefings with the relevant donor community, including technical assistance providers, implementing agencies, and key stakeholders;

(j) The Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Executive Directorate will undertake, as necessary, joint resource mobilization on specific States, regions or needs and coordinate with visited Member States to secure technical assistance on recommended and agreed areas. These joint efforts would be intended to complement any existing partnership frameworks;

(k) The Executive Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism will consult and collaborate with each other on participation in international, regional, subregional and national events and activities on counter-terrorism-related issues.

Cooperation on the design and development of projects and programmes

17. The Executive Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism have some good examples of successful cooperation in the design and development of projects and programmes as set forth in resolution 2395 (2017). However, there is a need to widen and enhance this cooperation to strengthen capacity-building support for States and regions.

18. During the development process, the Office of Counter-Terrorism will work closely with the Executive Directorate, including by using the Directorate's assessments and analysis as well as analysis of trends and developments, to identify projects, anchored in the Global Strategy, that would most benefit Member States. As appropriate, the Directorate would contribute to more detailed project documents developed under the planning phase and the financing and initiation stages, by supporting the identification of donors and the identification and selection of expert consultants and staff.

19. The Executive Directorate may recommend to the Office of Counter-Terrorism that it address specific needs through existing programmes supported by the Office and, where appropriate, may provide advice on adjusting those programmes accordingly in order to respond to evolving needs, threats and trends identified through the Directorate's ongoing dialogue with Member States and its analysis.

20. The Executive Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism will work to ensure that gender and the impact of terrorism on children remain cross-cutting issues throughout all areas of coordination between the two bodies. This work is in line with the gender-related provisions of Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) , 2242 (2015), 2331 (2016), 2395 (2017), 2396 (2017) and other relevant resolutions, as well as with the gender-related provisions of General Assembly resolution 70/291, on the fifth biennial review of the Global Strategy. The Directorate and the Office will continue to work closely to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women throughout the assistance provided to Member States and to hold consultations with women and women's groups to inform projects and programmes. This includes the Directorate's sharing with the Office relevant gender recommendations and assessments from its country visits, as well as its gender-sensitive research and data, where appropriate.

Sharing of information

(a) The Executive Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism will continue to hold meetings of the two heads of office, as well as monthly coordination

meetings, in order to share information on a timely basis and to update each other on relevant plans;

(b) The Executive Directorate will regularly share its mission reports, analytical products and survey tools with the Office of Counter-Terrorism with a view to improving their utility, for the Office and others, with respect to the design of technical assistance and capacity-building support;

(c) The Office of Counter-Terrorism will share its mission reports with the Executive Directorate, as well as documentation shared with members of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre;

(d) The Executive Directorate will, as appropriate, provide strategic advice to the leadership of the Office of Counter-Terrorism on issues relating to counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism, including for the purpose of informing the Secretary-General and other senior leaders of the United Nations;

(e) The Office of Counter-Terrorism will also share with the Executive Directorate other relevant information originating from United Nations offices in the field or at Headquarters, aimed at better informing the Directorate for the purpose of implementing the tasks conferred by the relevant Security Council resolutions.

IV. Strategic communication; monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of practical steps

(a) The Executive Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism will deliver a joint presentation to the General Assembly, within the framework of the sixth biennial review of the Global Strategy, on the implementation of resolution 2395 (2017) and the present joint report and its impact;

(b) The Executive Directorate and the Office of Counter-Terrorism will deliver a joint presentation to the Counter-Terrorism Committee on the implementation of resolution 2395 (2017) and on the present joint report;

(c) When the two heads of office undertake a joint visit, they will deliver joint briefings to the relevant bodies, as appropriate, and will engage in outreach activities aimed at promoting the impact of those missions;

(d) The Office of Counter-Terrorism, at the most senior level, will brief the Counter-Terrorism Committee twice annually;

(e) Where appropriate and relevant, the Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee may invite the Office of Counter-Terrorism to participate in Committee meetings (for example, when the Executive Directorate presents its findings and recommendations from its country visits);

(f) Where appropriate, the Office of Counter-Terrorism will invite the Executive Directorate to jointly brief the General Assembly and the Executive Committee of the Secretary-General on efforts to incorporate the Directorate's recommendations and analysis into the work of the Office.